Volume 13, Edition 4 April 2009

Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club WIRELESS

FROM THE TOP: HAMFEST, April 25.

The April 15 meeting will be in McDougal Hall at SDC (and don't forget to pay your taxes either).

This month we will be finalizing details of the Hamfest. This is a fun event with a breakfast, swap meet and a club station set up. I hope everyone can attend and help out.

I keep forgetting to get this repeater website in the newsletter: http://k5ehx.net/repeaters/qrepeater.php?coverage It was sent to me by Mike, KI6VIN and is a neat site that shows repeater coverages and can generate files that can be uploaded to some programmable radios. It is a fun site to check out.

I just got an email on Podcasts for amateur radio from Martin (M1MRB) and Colin (M6BOY). The website is http://www.icqpodcast.com/. Check out more information in the newsletter.

I've been working a few RTTY contests for the first time. The Ham Radio Deluxe program works well for it. Ham Radio Deluxe is available at http://www.ham-radio-deluxe.com/ If you need help setting it up let me know.

The other day Jim, K6UUW and I stopped by Mike, KI6FPE, and got his new antenna tuned up and on the air. It is always fun to help out another ham. We have a lot of resources in the club. If you have a question, there is usually someone in the club who can answer it, or at least point you in the correct direction.

The Sonoma Mendocino Emergency HF net has moved back down to 3.925 MHz on Tuesday nights at 7:30 PM. Stop by and check in if you get the chance.

The website is looking good. Thank you KG6QNT. As a matter a fact I just looked and realized that I am net control this month.

We still need net control stations for the VOMARC (Aug.) and ACS (May, Jun, and Aug.) nets. Let me know if you are interested.

Hope to hear you on the air and see you at the meeting.

Minutes March 18, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 7:30PM.

There were 20 in attendance. Introductions were made.

The minutes were approved as published in the newsletter.

Treasurer's Report: There is $2349.75 in the bank.

Education Committee: We need to pick a date for offering another technician license class. The thought is the week in June, 2009, right after school is out. The high school club members are building an amplifier kit for their HTs. There are more parts being ordered for a

digital defined receiver so they can listen to the ISS.

ACS: Ken, N6KM, reminded all who are ACS members that everyone needs to be familiar with all equipment at all the various stations including the hospital. A new pink sheet was distributed and the three groups were reviewed. Each group will concentrate predominately on one area. The red group will concentrate mainly on the hospital, the green group on the EOC and the blue group on the fire stations. All ACS members are encouraged to listen in on (but not check into) the hospital net on the second Tues of the month at noon on the 146.73 repeater. We still need ACS net control volunteers.

Old Business:

Field Day is June 25-26, 2009 at Camp Via, Sonoma Developmental Center. All paperwork is done. More planning will be done at future meetings.

We still need VOMARC net control volunteers.

The **Ham Fest** is April 25, 2009. San Ramon emergency vehicle is coming. Ken, N6KM, will also ask Solano and Coastal units. Tom, K6QJQ, is unable to handle the publicity for the papers as he had planned, so we need someone to help with that. Ed, W1EJ, will be in charge of the breakfast; Ed, KA6OFR, will do talk in, Joan, W6WXU, will be in charge of vendor tables; Jim, K6UUW, will be in charge of a club station, Mike, WB6TMH, will do a fox hunt.

There are plans to go to the Livermore swamp meet the first Sunday of April to distribute fliers advertising the ham fest. The announcement is in QST and should be in CQ this month. Final plans for the Ham Fest will be made at the next meeting which will be held on April 15th in McDougal Hall, Sonoma Developmental Center, so we can inventory supplies needed for both the Ham Fest and Field Day.

New Business:

ARISS will be passing over our location April 2, 2009 at about noon. There should be a school contact during that pass. The actual contact should be between 12:15 & 12:45pm. Santa Rosa Junior College is involved in the school contacts which are not necessarily from schools in our area. The contacts can be heard on repeaters K5EHX.net/repeaters, or www.discoveryreflector.CA. ISS contact listing sites can be found with google earth.

The equipment of Whit Gilman, KG6UYQ, is being sold. It is being offered to club members first and then will be on the ham auction net. If anyone is interested, please contact Mike, WB6TMH.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30PM.

Ken Fowler, K6NO, of the USS Hornet Amateur Radio Club, gave a very interesting presentation on the history of the USS Hornet and how it came to be a museum in Alameda plus the history of the Amateur Radio Club.

ICQ Amateur / Ham Radio Podcast comes of age with 21st Episode

Launched in July 2008, the ICQ Amateur / Ham Radio Podcast provides a mixture of news, views, training, technical reviews and information for all levels around the world. This month, April 2009, the ICQ Podcast came of age with the publication of our 21st episode.

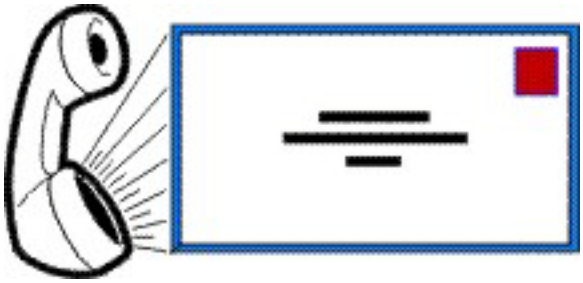
Previous episodes have included roundtable discussions with new entrants to the hobby and seasoned pros discussing the hobby. Technical reviews have covered many topics including aerials, modifications and products reviews, and interviews with Hams advising their latest innovations.

The ICQ Amateur / Ham Radio Podcast is a fortnightly radio type show, downloadable from the internet. Episodes can either be downloaded direct from the website (http://www.icqpodcast.com) or by subscribing to iTunes (http://phobos.apple.com/WebObjects/MZStore.woa/wa/viewPodcast?id=284922000). By registering with the ICQ Podcast website, an email will be sent to you with a direct link to download the latest episodes. Episodes can be played back either from the computer or by loading the mp3 file onto an mp3 player.

The ICQ Podcast is a podcast “for Amateur’s by Amateur’s” and we would be very interested to hear for anyone who would like to be involved. If you would like to contact us, please email info@icqpodcast.com

We hope you enjoy the ICQ Podcast.

Kind regards,
Martin Butler (M1MRB)
and Colin Butler (M6BOY)



We Get Email

Amateurs Coordinate Snow Rescue of Fellow Ham

This article appeared on the ARRL web site and is reprinted with permission.

On January 25, Dale Ashcroft, KC7UYM, of Hyde Park, Utah, convinced his wife that it was a fine day for a drive. His pick-up truck was equipped with emergency food, blanket, water, a shovel and tow chain -- and his 2 meter radio. They headed off to Atlantic City, Wyoming, about 225 miles away. Their route took through a remote location where services -- such as gasoline, food, medical attention or a tow from a snow bank -- were nonexistent. In case some unexpected event might occur, those involved in such a situation could either wait, hoping that some other adventurous type would arrive on the scene or they could make an attempt to walk out of the area and back to a highway. It could be days before help might arrive, and to walk out in the winter with bad weather on the horizon could well mean disaster.

As Ashcroft and his wife neared Atlantic City, he drove his pickup truck onto crusted snow that soon gave way under the weight of the vehicle. With too much snow to remove by digging and no way to back out of the drift, Ashcroft and his wife faced a potentially dangerous situation. They tried to use their cell phone, but there was no coverage. Ashcroft then tuned his 2 meter radio to 146.390 MHz and began calling for assistance

In Riverton, Wyoming, about 60 miles from where the Ashcrofts were stranded, Steve Carpenter, KC7ZVV, heard a faint call on simplex. According to ARRL Wyoming Section Traffic Manager Duane Shillinger, NN7H, Carpenter was unable to contact the Ashcrofts, but he obtained enough information from Ashcroft's calls to understand just about where he was located.

Carpenter contacted Paul McTee, KB7FGN. McTee, who lives in Pavilion, Wyoming (about 65 miles from Atlantic City and 26 miles from Riverton) was able to hear Dale's call for help. "Paul attempted to establish two-way communications with Dale, but he was only able to hear a faint, nearly unreadable signal," Shillinger said. "Paul called Boyd Potts, KB5JR, on the phone to ask him if he was able to hear Dale's call through the Copper Mountain repeater (146.805 MHz), but Boyd couldn't hear him. A little after noon, Paul telephoned Yancy Allison, N7RON, at his home in Sinclair, Wyoming. Yancy quickly tuned to 146.390 MHz and established two way communications with Dale."

Shillinger said that more than 100 miles separated Aschroft and Allison: "This 2 meter contact can be considered quite spectacular. Yancy was able to obtain specific information that he relayed back to Steve and Paul. He was also able to tell Dale and his wife that a search and rescue unit would soon be leaving Riverton."

Carpenter contacted the Fremont County Sheriff's Department and provided that agency with the Ashcroft's exact location. "Dale and his wife were extracted from the snow bank, thankful that Amateur Radio had been the important link between their remote location and the assistance provided by the search and rescue unit," Shillinger said. "That Dale, when his cell phone failed him, was able to successfully use his 2 meter Amateur Radio to

contact other amateurs should be a reminder to all hams who monitor local repeaters that it is indeed an important, if not a life saving, activity."

2009 VOMARC

Net Control Assignments

Month	Name	Call
APRIL	DAVE	KD6FIL
MAY		
JUNE		
JULY		
AUGUST		
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W6LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	KF6FZM
NOVEMBER		
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

2009 ACS Net Control Assignments

Month	Name	Call
APRIL	AL	KI6LNK
MAY		
JUNE		
JULY		
AUGUST		
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	KF6FZM
NOVEMBER		
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

Ham Radio Humor

—http://www.w4ktl.com/hamradiohumor.html

Easy way to sneak that new piece of ham gear past the XYL. Have a friend bring it over, hand it to you and say "here's that radio I borrowed from you, sorry I kept it so long"

Fred walked into the house after a long day at the hamfest. His hair was matted with sweat, there was a rip in the knee of his pants and both hands were blistered. His wife said "you look awful! What happened to you" Fred replied, "this was a terrible day! We had just started down the first aisle at the hamfest, when Bob fell over dead from a heart attack" "Oh, no" his XYL responded "that's awful". "Tell me about it" replied Fred. "All day long it was look at radios, drag Bob, look at radios, drag Bob".

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A publication of VOMARC, the Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club – W6AJF

Frank C. Jones – W6AJF
Honorary President in Perpetuity

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Jim Hill, K6UUW – Elmer Coordinator

Ken McTaggart, N6KM – Station Trustee for W6AJF

Eileen Adams, KG6QNT – Webmeistress, Editor

Receipt of the Wireless is one of the most sought after benefits of membership in VOMARC—S. Marler.

CLUB MEETINGS are held on the third Wednesday of each month at McDougal Hall at the Sonoma Developmental Center, Eldridge or the Sonoma Fire Station on 2nd St West. Meetings start at 19:30 local (7:30 P.M.).

WEB PAGE: http://www.vomarc.org/

Nets are held every Wednesday night at 19:30 (7:30 P.M.) local, except meeting nights on the 145.350 repeater, -600 kHz, PL 88.5 Hz.

ACS holds a net each Monday evening at 19:30 local on the 146.205, +600, PL 88.5 Hz repeater.

PACKET STATION INFO: The VOMARC packet station is off the air until further notice.

CLUB BREAKFASTS are held on the first Saturday of each month at Palms Grill (formerly Issa's) Restaurant, 18999 Sonoma Highway, Sonoma. The fun starts at 09:30 local.

Comments and submissions of material may be sent to:

Eileen@vom.com

Valley of the Moon ARC, Inc.

C/O Sonoma Police Department
175 First Street West
Sonoma, CA 95476

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Sonoma, CA 95476

THE NEXT VOMARC MEETING IS WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, AT MC DOUGAL HALL ON THE CAMPUS OF THE DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER AT 7:30PM
SEE YOU THERE.

VOMARC MEMBERSHIP

VOMARC 2009 Membership Dues: $15/year individual; $5/year family member.

VOMARC encourages its members to join the ARRL. More information is available at www.arrl.org.
QST is available to blind and physically handicapped individuals on audio cassette from the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Call 1-800-424-8567.

Name:_____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

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City: _____ State: _____ ZIP:_____

Name:_____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Name:_____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

VOMARC: $ _____

Membership Moment, From the Database Queen

Please check the mailing label on this newsletter. It tells you when your VOMARC dues are due. Dues may be mailed to Marty KI6RTP, 20829 Via Colombard, Sonoma, CA 95476, or brought to the next meeting. If there is any mistake, please do not shoot the messenger; email Eileen KG6QNT at Eileen@vom.com. Your check should be made payable to: **VOMARC**